
Negligible Events, Game Transformation and Formal Proofs of Cryptographic Protocols

Jesús Almansa

Tatsuaki Okamoto

NTT Labs
Information Sharing Platform

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motivation

Consider a typical security definition in the attack-based approach:

1. $\text{Game}^0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [x_1 \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} A^1, x_2 \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} A^2(x_1), \dots, x_n \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} A(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})]_k$
2. $\text{ADV}_A^0(k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P[x_n = x_i] \quad (x_i \text{ not an input of } A)$
3. **Security:** $|\text{ADV}_A^0(k) - r|$ is negligible as a function of k (*)

Here,

- A_i, A are PPT algorithms or finite sets
- $x_i \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} A_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$ represents the assignment to x_i of a value sampled at random from the distribution ζ of A_i wrt values of (some among) x_1, \dots, x_{i-1} .

To prove (*), one provides a “slightly modified” game ...

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1. $\text{Game}^1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [y_1 \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} B^1, y_2 \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} B^2(y_1), \dots, y_n \stackrel{\zeta}{\leftarrow} A(y_1, \dots, y_{n-1})]_k$
2. $\text{ADV}_A^1(k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P[y_n = y_j] \quad (y_j \text{ not an input of } A)$

... and one shows that

- a. $|\text{ADV}_A^0(k) - \text{ADV}_A^1(k)|$ is negligible as a function of k
- b. $|\text{ADV}_A^1(k) - r|$ is negligible as a function of k

Rationale:

if $\text{ADV}_A^0(k)$ and $\text{ADV}_A^1(k)$ are “close”, and $\text{ADV}_A^1(k)$ is “close to r ”, then $\text{ADV}_A^0(k)$ is “close to r ”.

Intuition: Game^0 and Game^1 have “similar structures”, but the latter is easier to analyse.

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This is the *game-transformation* technique for proving security of crypto protocols. [Shoup, Bellare-Rogaway, GGM]

Benefits:

- simplicity (understanding)
- proof pattern (just like Modus Ponens is)
- rigorous (mathematical language)
- exact bounds (security bounds)
- practical (extensively used)
- automation (computer aid) [Blanchet-Pointcheval]

By no means it is the final solution to proofs of crypto protocols!
It is just that its benefits are too important.

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However: The attack-based approach is just one paradigm among other definitional paradigms for crypto security.

In particular, *simulation-based* approaches fit better to study concurrent multiparty protocols: PCL, PIOA, PPT, RS, UC.

- no *explicit* proof technique for simulation-based approaches *with same benefits* of game-transformation technique. (except maybe for [PIOA])

Our aim: apply the game-transformation proof technique in simulation-based approaches.

agenda

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In technical terms, the elements we deal with are

- a probability space family
$$\llbracket \{(\Omega_k, P_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \rrbracket = \{\text{Game}_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$$
- a random ensemble
$$\llbracket \{X_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \rrbracket = \{\text{ADV}_A(k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$$

And the problem we want to solve is:

Is there a “natural” way h of transforming $\{(\Omega_k, P_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$
s.t. $\{X_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \approx h(\{X_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}})$
(possibly under certain extra assumptions)

Answer: Yes!

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Given a psf $\{(\Omega_k, P_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, an event ensemble is a sequence $X = \{X_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, where X_k is a boolean random variable on Ω_k for each k .

- $X_k : \Omega_k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$
- $X_k = 1$ is an event of Ω_k .

To each $X = \{X_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ there corresponds a function $F^X : k \mapsto P_k[X_k = 1]$.

Def. Let $\Omega = \{(\Omega_k, P_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a psf. Let $r \in [0, 1]$.

1. X is r -negligible iff F^X is negligibly close to r .
2. \mathfrak{N}_r is the collection of all r -negligible ensembles.
3. $\mathfrak{N} = \bigcup_r \mathfrak{N}_r$

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For instance, $0 \in \mathfrak{N}_0$ and $1 \in \mathfrak{N}_1$.

In principle, there is an uncountable number of \mathfrak{N}_r 's; but in reality many of them will be empty.

A natural way of relating ensembles:

Def. Let $\Omega = \{(\Omega_k, P_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a psf. We write $X \stackrel{s}{\approx} Y$, and say that X is statistically indistinguishable to Y iff F^X is negligibly close to F^Y .

Some properties:

- $\stackrel{s}{\approx}$ is an equivalence relation.
- \mathfrak{N}_r is a class modulo $\stackrel{s}{\approx}$, for any $r \in [0, 1]$.
- If $X\bar{Y} \stackrel{s}{\approx} 0$ and $Y \in \mathfrak{N}_0$ then $X \in \mathfrak{N}_0$.
- Shoup's Difference Lemma:
If $X\bar{Z} \stackrel{s}{\approx} Y\bar{Z}$ and $Z \in \mathfrak{N}_0$, then $X \stackrel{s}{\approx} Y$.

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So far we have focused on a single psf. However, we are trying to explain how to transform a psf into another that is structurally close.

Def. Consider $\langle \Omega, \mathfrak{N} \rangle$ and $\langle \Omega', \mathfrak{N}' \rangle$. A morphism is a transformation $h = \{h_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

- $h_k : \Omega_k \rightarrow \Omega'_k$;
- $h^{-1}(N) \in \mathfrak{N}$ for all $N \in \mathfrak{N}'$.

This is what we are looking for!

Assume $\langle \Omega, \mathfrak{N} \rangle$ is given and let X be an ensemble for Ω . If there exists a morphism h into $\langle \Omega', \mathfrak{N}' \rangle$ such that $h(X) \in \mathfrak{N}'$, then $X \in \mathfrak{N}$.

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A model for our theory is anything that gives rise to well-defined psf's.

E.g., a specification/programming language to describe/define interaction of PPT entities, with a well defined *probabilistic semantics*.

What could we prove?

- unconditional security in both attack-based and simulation-based approach via game transformation.
- computational security in attack-based approach via *direct* arguments

Study case: ElGamal encryption

1.

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} x \xleftarrow{u} \mathbb{Z}_q, \alpha \leftarrow \gamma^x \\ (m_0, m_1) \xleftarrow{c} A(\alpha), \\ b \xleftarrow{u} \{0, 1\} \\ y \xleftarrow{u} \mathbb{Z}_q, \beta \leftarrow \gamma^y, \delta \leftarrow \alpha^y, \zeta \leftarrow \delta \cdot m_b \\ \hat{b} \xleftarrow{c} A(\alpha, \beta, \zeta) \end{array} \right]$$

2. $\text{ADV}_A(k) = |P[b = \hat{b}] - 1/2|$

3. **Security:** $\text{ADV}_A(k)$ is negligible, as a function of k , for all PPT A .

Security of ElGamal encryption is claimed to hold under the Decisional Diffie-Hellman assumption (DDH)

Decisional Diffie-Hellman

1.

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} x \xleftarrow{u} \mathbb{Z}_q, \alpha \leftarrow \gamma^x \\ y \xleftarrow{u} \mathbb{Z}_q, \beta \leftarrow \gamma^y, \\ z \xleftarrow{u} \mathbb{Z}_q \\ d \xleftarrow{u} \{0, 1\} \\ \delta \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha^y, & \text{if } d = 0 \\ \gamma^z, & \text{if } d = 1 \end{cases} \\ \hat{d} \xleftarrow{\dagger} D(\alpha, \beta, \delta) \end{array} \right]$$

2. $\text{ADV}_D(k) = |P[d = \hat{d}] - 1/2|$

3. DDH: $\text{ADV}_D(k)$ is negligible, as a function of k , for all PPT D .

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We could play them both at once:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{l} x \stackrel{u}{\leftarrow} \mathbb{Z}_q, \alpha \leftarrow \gamma^x \\ (m_0, m_1) \stackrel{c}{\leftarrow} A(\alpha), \\ b \stackrel{u}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\} \\ y \stackrel{u}{\leftarrow} \mathbb{Z}_q, \beta \leftarrow \gamma^y, \\ z \stackrel{u}{\leftarrow} \mathbb{Z}_q \\ d \stackrel{u}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\} \\ \delta \leftarrow \begin{cases} \alpha^y, & \text{if } d = 0 \\ \gamma^z, & \text{if } d = 1 \end{cases} \\ \zeta \leftarrow \delta \cdot m_b \\ \hat{d} \stackrel{c}{\leftarrow} D(\alpha, \beta, \delta) \\ \hat{b} \stackrel{c}{\leftarrow} A(\alpha, \beta, \zeta) \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$Y_k = \text{ADV}_D(k) = |P[d = \hat{d}] - 1/2|$$

$$X_k = \text{ADV}_A(k) = |P[d = 0 \wedge b = \hat{b}] - 1/2|$$

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$$Y_k = \text{ADV}_D(k) = |P[d = \hat{d}] - 1/2|$$
$$X_k = \text{ADV}_A(k) = |P[d = 0 \wedge b = \hat{b}] - 1/2|$$

Consider then $X = \{X_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $Y = \{Y_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$.
Under the assumption that $Y \in \mathfrak{N}_0$, then $X \in \mathfrak{N}_0$.

Indeed, we know that

$X\bar{Y} \stackrel{s}{\approx} 0$, and $Y \in \mathfrak{N}_r$ implies $X \in \mathfrak{N}_r$.

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“formal” can mean several things:

- serious
- official
- precise
- methodical
- form over contents

does our theory allow us to argue formally
(in the above sense)?

yes! it is already a gain vs common practice.

could we actually automate our proofs? possibly...

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once determined the ensemble on which a property is to be proved, the reasoning is symbolic.

- *boolean* ensembles inherit algebra of sets
- with $=$, the same axioms of algebra of sets apply
- with $\overset{s}{\approx}$, some more axioms are added, some more inference rules are added
- the type of probability spaces we use in practice (discrete product spaces) seem to provide some natural subevent relation
- applying game transformation is more challenging; not easy to decide in fully automated fashion what transformation to apply among many other
- guaranteeing computational security using game transformation requires more effort.

ALGEBRA OF ENSEMBLES WRT =

Commutative: $XY = YX$

Associative: $X(YZ) = (XY)Z$

Distributive: $X(Y + Z) = XY + XZ$

Tautology: $XX = X$

Absorption: $X(X + Y) = X$

Complementation: $X\bar{X} = 0$

Double Complementation: $\overline{\bar{X}} = X$

De Morgan: $\overline{XY} = \bar{X} + \bar{Y}$

Neutrals: $0X = 0$

$$1X = X$$

$$\bar{0} = 1$$

$$X + Y = Y + X$$

$$X + (Y + Z) = (X + Y) + Z$$

$$X + YZ = (X + Y)(X + Z)$$

$$X + X = X$$

$$X + XY = X$$

$$X + \bar{X} = 1$$

$$\overline{X + Y} = \bar{X}\bar{Y}$$

$$1 + X = 1$$

$$0 + X = X$$

$$\bar{1} = 0$$

Thank you.